

STATINTL

Robert S. Allen - Paul Scott Report

Official in Sensitive Code Agency Fights Pentagon to Keep His Job

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has some real doubts at times whether he is the boss of the sprawling Defense Department and its military and intelligence services.

For several weeks, McNamara and his top advisers have tried unsuccessfully to fire Maurice H. Klein, assistant director of the National Security Agency, and the official responsible for hiring the two cryptographers that defected to Russia.

Instead of quitting his \$18,000-a-year super-grade job, Klein has spurned all efforts by McNamara to obtain his resignation and he has quietly launched a powerful counter-offensive to keep his sensitive position in the code-breaking agency.

Klein, who was NSA's director of personnel before his promotion this year, hired Bernon Mitchell and William Martin, the two NSA defectors. They are now in Moscow breaking U. S. codes for the Kremlin.

Whether McNamara or Klein will win out in this backstage struggle is still very much in doubt.

KLEIN, WHO HAS ALREADY served notice that he plans to stay, has powerful backing within the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency. Frank C. Rowlett, a \$100-a-day consultant to NSA, and one of the real mystery men in government, is pulling strings all the way to CIA Director Allen Dulles' office in support of Klein.

According to Congressional sources, it was Rowlett who persuaded Vice Adm. Laurence H. Frost, NSA Director, to promote Klein to his present position.

Significantly, Adm. Frost is now actively seeking Klein's resignation on orders from McNamara. However, Klein has indicated that he has no intentions of quitting. So far, neither Secretary McNamara nor Admiral Frost has seen his way clear to use legal action to try to oust Klein.

The House Un-American Activities Commi-



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tee, which has been probing Klein and the agency for months, is planning to come to McNamara's aid.

THE COMMITTEE will release a new blast at Klein and NSA, in the form of a report on the committee's hearings and investigation of the agency.

Already the committee's probe, which the Defense Department vigorously opposed, has forced NSA to dismiss 24 employees for security reasons.

Rep. Francis E. Walters, D-Pa., chairman, calls the agency's security laxness one of the major scandals of the Eisenhower Administration. He compares the Mitchell-Martin defection with the British deviate defectors, Burgess and Maclean.

Some U. S. military intelligence officers believe that there is definitely a link between the Burgess-Maclean and the Mitchell - Martin case and that a really thorough FBI investigation would establish the connection.

For some very mysterious reasons, neither the Eisenhower nor the Kennedy Administration asked the FBI to take charge of the investigation of the Mitchell-Martin case, although the NSA employees' defection threatens the nation's internal security for years to come.

THE TWO NSA DEFECTORS' one-way trail to Moscow now has been definitely established as passing through Mexico City and Havana.

Once in the Cuban capital, Mitchell and Martin waited two and a half days for a Russian trawler that took them to a submarine some 200 miles off the Cuban coast.

This sub carried the two deserters to a Baltic port, from which they were flown to Moscow for their widely fanfareed press conference.

Cuba under Dictator Castro is the crux of an "underwater railroad" route that brings dozens of Communist spies into North and South America daily.

An average of three Soviet trawlers a week move in and out of Cuban ports, mostly at night. These trawlers deliver and carry away numerous mysterious Soviet agents.

Subsequently, many of these Communist agents have been spotted in the U. S., Mexico and Canada. One was spotted within a block of the White House.